

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 MC-02 ACDA-05 PM-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

SECDEF PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

MAC SCOTT AFB PRIORITY

CDRMTMC PRIORITY

RAMSTEIN AFB PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, MASS, ET, US

SUBJECT: OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES FOR AMMUNITION AIRLIFT TO
ETHIOPIA

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REF: A) KHARTOUM 0734; B)JIDDA 2326

1. POSSIBILITY OF SAUDI INACTION ON OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE REQUEST (REF B) AND PASSAGE OF TIME MAKES IT NECESSARY FOR US TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR AIRLIFT OF AMMUNITION TO ETHIOPIA. IN PARTICULAR, IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE FAVORABLE REPLY FROM SAUDI ARABIA, AN OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FROM SUDAN WILL BE NECESSARY.

2. WHILE WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RAISE MATTER WITH GOS, BECAUSE OF OUR CURRENT RESTRAINED RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT GOVT. FOLLOWING ITS RELEASE LAST JUNE OF ASSASSINS OF US DIPLOMATS, WE HAVE LITTLE LEVERAGE IN KHARTOUM. WE BELIEVE THAT EPMG WOULD HAVE MUCH MORE INFLUENCE WITH GOS ON SUCH A MATTER. REQUEST, THEREFORE, THAT EMBASSY TAKE SUBJECT UP WITH PMG, EXPLAIN PROBLEMS WE HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERING IN OBTAINING CLEARANCES, PARTICULARLY FROM SAUDI ARABIA, AND ASK IF PMG WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE INITIAL APPROACH TO GOS TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR OVERFLIGHTS BY SEABOARD AIRCRAFT CARRYING MUNITIONS TO ETHIOPIA. IF PMG AGREES TO

DO SO AND RECEIVES FAVORABLE REACTION SEABOARD AIRLINES AND/OR EMBASSY KHARTOUM COULD FOLLOW UP AS NECESSARY IN OBTAINING CLEARANCE FOR SPECIFIC FLIGHTS.

3. IN EVENT IT PROVES IMPOSSIBLE OBTAIN SAUDI OR SUDANESE CLEARANCE OR FOR SEABOARD TO USE RED SEA PASSAGE (REF B) WOULD EMBASSY OBJECT TO DELIVERY OF AMMUNITION BY MAC AIRLIFT? KISSINGER

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